

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for executing a trade for a tradable item, comprising:receiving a first trading command from a first party to make a spread market for the tradable item;

receiving a second trading command from a second party in response to the spread market;

when the second trading command is a hit command, receiving from the second party a third trading command to make a price/size market for the tradable item and receiving a fourth trading command from the first party in response to the price/size market; and

when the second trading command is a take command, receiving from the first party a third trading command to make a price/size market for the tradable item and receiving a fourth trading command from the second party in response to the price/size market.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising requiring the second party to submit the third trading command within a given time period from receipt of the second trading command

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising blocking the second party from participating in a market when the third trading command is not received within the given period of time.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising charging a fee to the second party when the third trading command is not received within the given period of time.

5        5.    The method of claim 2, further comprising  
automatically entering a default trading command from the  
second party as the third trading command when the third  
trading command is not received within the given period  
of time.

6.    The method of claim 1, further comprising  
requiring the first party to submit the third trading  
command within a given time period from receipt of the  
second trading command.

7.    The method of claim 6, further comprising  
blocking the first party from participating in a market  
when the third trading command is not received within the  
given period of time.

8.    The method of claim 1, wherein the spread  
market comprises a bid side and an offer side.

9.    The method of claim 8, wherein the bid  
side comprises a spread and a size.

10.   The method of claim 8, wherein the offer  
side comprises a spread and a size.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the  
price/size market comprises a bid and an offer.

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the bid  
comprises a price and a size.

13.   The method of claim 11, wherein the offer  
comprises a price and a size.

14.   A system for executing a trade for a  
tradable item, comprising:

first workstation that receives a first trading  
command from a first party to make a spread market for  
5 the tradable item;

a second workstation that receives a second  
trading command from a second party in response to the  
spread market; and

a server that: when the second trading command  
10 is a hit command, receives from the second workstation a  
third trading command to make a price/size market for the  
tradable item and receives a fourth trading command from  
the first workstation in response to the price/size  
market; and when the second trading command is a take  
15 command, receives from the first workstation a third  
trading command to make a price/size market for the  
tradable item and receives a fourth trading command from  
the second workstation in response to the price/size  
market.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the server  
also requires the second party to submit the third  
trading command within a given time period from receipt  
of the second trading command.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the server  
also blocks the second party from participating in a  
market when the third trading command is not received  
within the given period of time.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the server  
also charges a fee to the second party when the third  
trading command is not received within the given period  
of time.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the server  
also automatically enters a default trading command from

the second party as the third trading command when the  
third trading command is not received within the given  
5 period of time.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the server  
also requires the first party to submit the third trading  
command within a given time period from receipt of the  
second trading command.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the server  
also blocks the first party from participating in a  
market when the third trading command is not received  
within the given period of time.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the spread  
market comprises a bid side and an offer side.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the bid  
side comprises a spread and a size.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the offer  
side comprises a spread and a size.

24. The system of claim 14, wherein the  
price/size market comprises a bid and an offer.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the bid  
comprises a price and a size.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the offer  
comprises a price and a size